

# City Lights

A Business-to-Business Publication from Marietta Power

Spring 2004

## Marietta Power Team Takes Top Honors at National Lineworkers' Rodeo

Marietta Power's team of Bobby Watson, Brandon Wylie, John Atcheson and Clark Galloway won the American Public Power Association's (APPA)



L-R: Coach Derek Hart, Bobby Watson, John Atcheson, Clark Galloway and Brandon Wylie (kneeling).

Fourth Annual Lineworkers' Rodeo, on March 5 and 6 in San Antonio, Texas. The victory over 50 other teams from all over the country showcased the skills that each team member uses in serving Marietta Power customers.

"Our team's victory at the rodeo reflects Marietta Power's dedication to providing the best possible service to our customers," said Derek Hart, coach

of the Marietta Power team. "Team members even came in on their days off to practice and prepare for the competition. Their enthusiasm in getting ready for the rodeo says a lot about how much these guys enjoy their jobs and shows that they want to get better every day."

The competition took place in conjunction with APPA's annual Engineering & Operations Technical Conference. The rodeo has two levels of competition. Workers with more than four years of experience compete in the journeyman division, while those with four or less years of experience compete in the apprentice level.



Bobby Watson and Brandon Wylie in journeyman team competition.

Rodríguez represented Marietta Power in the apprentice portion of the rodeo, finishing sixth overall.

Each journeyman team consists of two climbers and a ground person, and can include an optional alternate.

## Editorial Focus

### New BLW Board Manager Bob Lewis Intends to Provide Marietta Utility Customers With the Best Possible Service

by Bob Lewis



Bob Lewis

Bob Lewis set out to make the Marietta Board of Lights and Water (BLW) the "best municipal utility in the country" when he took on his new role as board manager for the organization on June 7.

"The BLW is one of the most important assets of the city," Lewis said. "It not only provides critical services such as power, water, sewer, and telecommunications; but also provides a significant annual transfer to the city's general fund.

"In addition, the BLW is an important element in attracting new businesses and supporting the city's redevelopment efforts," he added.

Lewis brings a wealth of business and public service experience to his new post. He has worked in the energy industry for more than 30 years with organizations such as Mirant Corporation, Southern Energy, and the Georgia Power Company in Atlanta. He served in numerous

## Contents

**MUST Ministries Gives Help and Hope to More Than a Quarter of a Million People Each Year . . . 2**

**Employee Profile:  
Bill Swafford Keeps BLW Work Crews  
Equipped to Meet Customers' Needs . . . . . 3**

**Calendar of Events . . . . . 4**

continued on page 3

continued on page 4



## MUST Ministries Gives Help and Hope to More Than a Quarter of a Million People Each Year

Ministries United in Service and Training, better known simply as MUST, has come a long way from its humble beginnings in 1971.

The community-service organization got started when a youth worker at Powers Ferry United Methodist Church borrowed a church bus to drive elderly members of the community to grocery stores and doctors appointments. The organization has since grown to serve more than a quarter of a million people through its various ministries.

Last year alone, the MUST location in Marietta provided:

- Groceries to 6,651 individuals through its food pantry.
- Clothing for 16,910 individuals through MUSTwear.
- Employment and education services (job readiness, resume workshops, GED, ESL and computer classes) for 760 individuals.
- Health services to 3,933 individuals through Cobb Health Partners.
- Financial assistance for rent and utilities to 370 families.
- 28,478 meals during community lunch in the Loaves and Fishes kitchen.
- 36,636 meals served to guests at the MUST shelter.
- 20,590 summer lunches.
- School supplies to 5,912 children.
- Housing to 1,822 individuals.

With the Summer Lunch Program now winding down, MUST will soon begin collecting school supplies for children in need. The most needed items include all basic school supplies for elementary, middle and high school students. They also need back packs and new clothing items, especially shoes, socks, underwear and jeans. The organization will distribute these items in early August to the approximately 1,500 children who received assistance through the MUST Summer Lunch Program, and at MUST locations in Marietta, Smyrna and Canton.



Anyone interested in assisting with this effort should call Bob Milburn in Marietta at (770) 427-9862, ext. 24 or Sally Franco in Smyrna at (770) 436-9514.

In addition to donations, MUST relies on community volunteers to help it provide housing, food and other basic necessities to people in need. Last year, area residents gave nearly 99,000 volunteer hours to help MUST Marietta serve our community. These volunteers included members of a wide range of church, school, community and civic groups, as well as hundreds of individuals looking for a way to help others less fortunate than themselves.

MUST coordinates this extraordinary volunteer effort from its headquarters on Elizabeth Church Road in Marietta. Its offices occupy the old Elizabeth Baptist Church building, which the organization purchased in 1988. The building also houses an emergency shelter for children and adults.

Surrounding the former church building, MUST Marietta has separate buildings that house its food pantry, the Loaves and Fishes Community Kitchen, donation center, MUSTwear clearing house and medical clinic. The MUST Marietta campus also has a training center where people in need can receive training in essential skills and assistance in seeking work.

MUST has also depended on Marietta Power to supply it with reliable electrical service for more than 10 years.

"They furnish power for all of our transitional housing in Marietta," said Joyce Tripp Miller, MUST's communications and special events coordinator.

"Marietta Power has excellent customer service," said MUST Director of Finance and Personnel Karen Mize Davis. "They are polite, efficient and very prompt in taking action to correct any problem."

Marietta Power, in turn, encourages employees, customers and members of the community-at-large to support MUST in its endeavors. For additional information on MUST Ministries and the positive difference it is making in our area, please call (770) 427-9862 or visit [www.mustministries.org](http://www.mustministries.org). ✎

### City Lights

is published by Marietta Power.  
Editor Peter Jonsson and the staff of *City Lights* welcome your questions, suggestions, and comments. Address letters to:

### City Lights

Marietta Power  
675 N. Marietta Pkwy.  
Marietta, GA 30060-1528  
Attn: Elsie Neal  
©2004 The Newsletter Factory



## Employee Profile

*Bill Swafford*

## Bill Swafford Keeps BLW Work Crews Equipped to Meet Customers' Needs

Bill Swafford, warehouse foreperson for the Marietta Board of Lights and Water (BLW), does his job so well that most of the city's utility customers don't even know about his position in the warehouse.

"I order, receive, store and issue the supplies and equipment that BLW work crews need to serve our electrical, water, sewer and FiberNet customers," said Swafford, who has worked in the BLW warehouse for all of his 23 years as a city employee. "We keep almost \$2 million worth of electrical supplies and equipment on hand at all times. We have about \$400,000 for the water and sewer crews here as well."

In other words, as long as BLW crews have the materials they need to respond quickly to emergencies and customers' requests, most people will remain blissfully unaware of what Swafford does to ensure that the city's utilities continue operating smoothly. That, of course, doesn't mean that Swafford ever gets much time to take it easy.

After all, a steady stream of material moves in and out of the BLW warehouse, even under normal operating conditions. During those times, Swafford focuses most of his attention on staging large-scale jobs and pulling and

issuing the wire, conduit, pipelines and other material needed for their completion. He and his dedicated team of five workers also keep track of specialty items that the city stores in the warehouse, such as donations to the city's annual fundraising auction and Marietta Power's signs for the annual Lights of Life display. Swafford and his crew even have responsibility for maintaining the landscape around the BLW facilities on North Marietta Parkway.

When crisis conditions arise, however, Swafford and his team often put in hours as long as the service crews themselves, and often longer.

"In the winter, if I hear a forecast calling for an ice storm, I may spend the night in the chair at the warehouse office to be sure I'm available if conditions get bad," Swafford said. "We only have five people who work in the warehouse, so we can't rotate people in and out as frequently as the work crews can."

When severe weather hits, Swafford and his team begin by deploying "storm kits" that they assemble during good weather and keep on hand for crisis situations. The kits consist of electrical wire, other materials and safety gear that crews will need to restore power quickly. As soon as he begins to issue the kits, Swafford starts making phone calls to suppliers and vendors

to get replacement material on its way.

"In situations like Hurricane Opal a few years back, or the big ice storm in the early '90s, we go through a lot of material in a short period of time and have to get replacements in here fast," he said. "Situations like those really give you an appreciation for the people you work with and their commitment to serving the people in our community."

"Just like everyone else who works here, I take a lot of pride in my job," he added. "The city has always been good to me and I consider taking the time to do my job well a part of doing a good job for the city."

Somehow, Swafford also finds time for a few activities outside of the work he does for Marietta's utilities. A lifelong resident of Cobb County and graduate of Wheeler High School, he enjoys hunting Civil War relics — with permission from private landowners, of course. A member of the North Georgia Relic Hunters Association, he also serves on the board of directors of the Marietta Confederate Cemetery Foundation. Plus, he has a collection of antique cars, which includes a 1976 Corvette Stingray that he considers his favorite.

In addition, he enjoys spending as much time as possible with his fiancé, Lori Herrin, and playing with the couple's two-year-old boxer, Belle. *✓*

### Marietta Power Team Takes Top Honors at National Lineworkers' Rodeo *continued from page 1*

Atcheson served as ground person for the Marietta Power team, with Wylie and Watson climbing poles and Galloway standing by as alternate and providing much needed moral support.

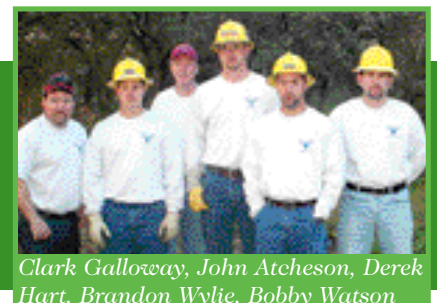
"The competition emphasizes safety as much as it does time," Hart said. "Both time and safety rating go into determining a team's overall score."

Competitors must observe all safety rules established by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration and the APPA Safety

Manual. Other factors that judges take into account include work practices, neatness, ability and equipment handling.

"The rodeo shows how much pride we take in our everyday work," Wylie said. "The extra time we put into preparing for the competition reflects our desire to do a good job for Marietta Power Customers."

"We enjoy our job, so naturally we enjoy the competition at the rodeo," Watson added. *✓*

*Apprentice Jason Rodríguez**Groundman John Atcheson*

*Clark Galloway, John Atcheson, Derek Hart, Brandon Wylie, Bobby Watson and Jason Rodríguez.*

Calendar of Events

**Now through August 7**  
*The Library Dragon*  
Theatre in the Square  
Marietta  
Call (770) 422-8369  
for information

**Friday, August 27**  
*Glover Park Concert Series*  
Marietta Square  
“AIA” Jimmy Buffett  
Tribute Band  
For table reservations  
call (770) 794-5601

**Saturday, August 28**  
*Symphony Saturday on the Square*  
“Pops” Concert  
Glover Park  
Marietta  
Call (770) 426-1509  
for information

**Thursday, September 2, 9, 16, 23, 30**  
*Brown Bag Lunch Concert Series*  
Glover Park  
Call (770) 794-5601  
for information

**September 4 through 6**  
*Art in the Park*  
Marietta Square  
Call (770) 429-1115  
for information

**Saturday, September 18**  
*Antique Festival on the Square*  
Marietta Square  
Call (770) 794-5601  
for information

**September 23 through October 3**  
*North Georgia State Fair*  
Jim R. Miller Park  
Call (770) 423-1330  
for information

capacities with the latter, including director of external affairs, project director, marketing manager, and general manager. He received the President’s Award from Mirant Corporation in 2002 and an Excellence Award from the Southern Company earlier in his career.

His resume also includes past affiliations with several industry agencies, including the Edison Electric Institute, the Electric Power Research Institute, and the Southeastern Electric Exchange. He believes this extensive experience in both regulated and unregulated energy companies will enable him to address the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead for Marietta’s utilities.

“Marietta has become a highly attractive urban community that will require significant investments in the expansion and replacement of critical infrastructure to ensure

the quality and reliability of future utility services,” he said. “I believe that the BLW board of directors and the city council understand these needs and will continue to invest in the human and capital needs of this business.”

“The BLW is fortunate to have an excellent management team and truly dedicated employees,” he added. “My goal is to make the Marietta Board of Lights and Water the best municipal utility in the country,” Lewis said

Lewis and his wife Laura, a media specialist at West Side Elementary School, reside in Marietta. They have two grown daughters - Mary Leslie who teaches second grade at Dunleith Elementary and Sarah, a senior at Auburn University. Lewis is also a graduate of Leadership Cobb and a member of the Marietta Rotary Club and the First United Methodist Church. ✎

City Lights

**Marietta Power**  
675 N. Marietta Pkwy.  
Marietta, GA 30060-1528

Presort STD  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
Atlanta, GA  
Permit # 4461

Contents

MUST Ministries Gives Help and Hope to More Than a Quarter of a Million People Each Year . . . 2

Employee Profile:  
Bill Swafford Keeps BLW Work Crews Equipped to Meet Customers’ Needs . . . . . 3

Calendar of Events . . . . . 4



[www.mariettapower.com](http://www.mariettapower.com)